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THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PRIORITIES SINCE THE FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

(Commission resolution 2 (XXV) and decisions O (45) and A (46))

Report by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. This report reviews the highlights of the activities of the Commission since the forty-sixth session. A fuller account is contained in the reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and in certain documents prepared for the forty-seventh session.

2. In fulfilment of decision O (45), over the first year of implementation, resources have been redeployed to strengthen activities in the priority areas. The re-organization of the Commission's intergovernmental structure, as defined in decision O (45), has been completed, as reflected in the reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies. Methods of work have gained a greater flexibility through increased use of informal meetings and workshops. More information on the implementation of decisions O (45) and A (46) is contained in documents E/ECE/1252 and E/ECE/1265.

3. The review of programme activities below begins with those sectors identified by the Commission as priority areas of activity.

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4. The report also gives special attention to activities designed to assist countries in transition to a market economy and their integration into the European and global economy, as well as to the guiding principle of sustainable development.

Environment (ECE/ENVWA/24)

5. Conventions on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes and on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents have been elaborated within the framework of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems. Work on the conventions was completed in November 1991 and both were adopted and signed at the resumed fifth session of the Senior Advisers held in Helsinki (Finland) from 17 to 18 March 1992 at the Ministerial level. At that occasion the conventions were signed by 22 and 23 countries respectively as well as by the European Community. The Senior Advisers also adopted an interim decision to being implementation of the two conventions without delay pending their ratification. This brings to four the number of regional conventions adopted within the framework of the Senior Advisers.

6. The Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP) in November 1991 adopted the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) or their Transboundary Fluxes, which to date has been signed by 21 countries. It established a Working Group on Strategies to prepare protocols on specific air pollutants, or groups of air pollutants. As a first priority it will prepare a draft protocol for further reductions of sulphur emissions after 1993. On the occasion of the signing of the VOC Protocol a Ministerial statement was adopted, urging Parties, inter alia, to carry out timely negotiations leading to additional protocols to the Convention. The Executive Body also established a Working Group on Technology to update technical annexes to protocols and to address issues on exchange of technology.

7. The Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems in March 1992 adopted a decision on Regional Cooperation for the Management of Hazardous Chemicals (ECE/ENVWA/24, Annex I). They adopted recommendations to ECE Governments on ecosystems-based water management; on protection of inland waters against eutrophication; and on reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of industrial wastes. In addition they approved reports on the application of environmental impact assessment principles to policies, plans and programmes; on protection of inland waters against eutrophication; and on energy- and resource-saving technologies in the pulp and paper industry.

8. The Senior Advisers concluded their activities on nature conservation by adopting the Code of Practice for the Conservation of Threatened Animals and Plants and Other Species of International Significance (ENVWA/R.52). They invited the Council of Europe to consider possible follow-up action with regard to the documents elaborated by them in that area.

9. Arrangements were made for the further elaboration of the regional strategy on integrated waste management, codes of practice on ecosystems-based water management and on the prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides, and documents on responsibility and liability,

environmental rights and obligations, and on bilateral and multilateral financial cooperation of relevance to environmental protection.

10. Steps have been taken to strengthen cooperation with OECD with respect to management of chemicals, economic instruments of environmental policies and elaboration of environmental policy reviews for ECE countries non-members of OECD.

11. The Executive Body established new Task Forces on Economic Aspects of Abatement Strategies and on Emission Inventories, and specified the future work of the Task Forces on Persistent Organic Pollutants and on Heavy Metals, with an orientation towards providing information by 1994 as a basis for elements of possible protocols.

Transport (ECE/TRANS/94)

12. Progress was made towards the development of a coherent road transport system in Europe, inter alia through the implementation of the revised European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews engaged in Road Transport (AETR). The revision of the 1968 Conventions on Road Traffic is virtually completed. The revision of the 1954 and 1956 Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles has also been completed. The new European Agreement on Important Combined Transport Lines and Related Installations (AGTC) has been opened for signature and was signed by 16 European Transport Ministers at the Conference in Prague (29-31 October 1991). A substantial part of a new Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers has been elaborated.

13. The analysis of traffic flows in three European North-South corridors has been finalized and a seminar was held in Volos (Greece) in June 1991. A traffic flow study in the North-Eastern part of Europe ("Via Baltica" corridor) was launched in 1991. A joint ECE/EC project on the assessment of transport infrastructure needs in the light of east European development has been finalized. An all-European road traffic census was carried out in 1990, the results of which will be published in 1992.

14. Work has started on a study on the establishment of a network of main European inland waterways of international importance, with a view to the elaboration of a European Agreement (AGN) similar to the AGR, AGC and AGTC (for road, rail and combined transport respectively). The revision of the classification of European inland waterways has been virtually completed and a resolution in this respect may be adopted by the end of 1992.

15. A Seminar on Road Traffic Safety was held on 23 and 24 March 1992 to evaluate the Road Safety Week, held in October 1990, and to prepare future action in this area, including a new international road safety campaign.

16. Workshops were held on transition issues in the field of inland transport, i.e.

- Market Adaptation of the Inland Navigation Industry in Eastern and Central Europe and its Integration into an all-European Transport System (Budapest (Hungary), 9-10 September 1991)

- Problems of Transition from a Centrally-planned to a Market Economy in the Field of Road Transport (Sinaia (Romania), 16-19 September 1991)

- Nature of the Relation between the State and the Railways (Gárdony (Hungary), 15-16 October 1991)

- A series of workshops on combined transport issues (Prague, 13-14 June 1991; Budapest, 16-19 September 1991; Warsaw, 21-22 November 1991)

17. To assist central and east European countries in overcoming transition problems, a Guide to the compilation of transport statistics in market economies was also prepared by the secretariat.

18. In the area of transport infrastructure, following the discontinuation of UNDP financial support for the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) Project, the participating Governments decided to continue their cooperation through a funding agreement which came into effect on 1 January 1992. ECE continues to serve as executing agency for the project. A similar agreement is being elaborated by the Steering Committee of the Trans-European North-South Railway (TER) Project, which will be financed by UNDP until the end of 1992.

19. A Coordination Meeting was convened by the Inland Transport Committee in 1991 to consider, inter alia, the Committee's working methods and its programme of work, coordination of work with other international organizations and questions related to countries in transition. The Committee at its fifty-fourth session took a number of decisions in respect of these areas.

Statistics (ECE/CES/38)

20. The Conference of European Statisticians has continued to give special attention to activities designed to assist countries in transition and their integration into the European and global economy, in line with decision O (45). As requested in decision O (45), a working group of the Conference reviewed ECE's statistical publications and will report to the 1992 session of the Conference.

21. Several Intersecretariat Working Groups (IWG) were set up during the year to discuss cooperative measures; a number of workshops and meetings have been convened jointly with other organizations; and arrangements have been made for joint data collection and the sharing of data. A Joint Programme Review (JPR) meeting between ECE, OECD and Eurostat was convened to avoid duplication in the statistical work programmes of these organizations. It was agreed that such tripartite intersecretariat meetings would be held annually.

22. A "Newsletter on Transition Projects" has continued to review the progress of the Conference's transition projects and to disseminate information about ongoing work. The Steering Document on "Strategies, priorities and results in the work of statistical offices of transition countries in Europe" has been updated and reinforced through the introduction of sections on results achieved from projects undertaken.

23. In the field of statistical information technology, work sessions on meta-information systems and data editing were held and a publication on data editing methods prepared. The secretariat contributed to the work of the

Message Development Group of the Western European EDIFACT Board, headed by Eurostat.

24. At the Seminar on Household Income Statistics, participants examined the state of the art in this area. The most urgent item for future work is the development of regional guidelines for statistics on distribution of household income, consumption and accumulation.

25. Work on the European Comparison Programme within the ICP has progressed according to schedule and the preliminary results for 1990 in Group II will be available shortly.

26. In social and demographic statistics, consultations were held with Eurostat and the OECD for harmonization of future data collection on migration statistics. Back-to-back meetings on labour statistics were agreed upon among ECE, ILO and OECD. Publications on changing population age structures and on statistics of women are in preparation.

27. Work has been completed on the 1992 Compendium of Environment Statistics. A freshwater quality classification, a draft marine water quality classification, and a revised draft of a classification of environmental protection expenditures were prepared. Work in the fields of environmental accounting and the Baltic GIS progressed as planned.

Economic analysis (ECE/EC.AD/38)

28. In the context of the continuing radical changes taking place in central and eastern Europe, special attention has been paid in the economic analysis carried out by the secretariat to current economic developments and reforms in the transition countries in the region. Accordingly, the Economic Survey of Europe in 1991-1992 contains a chapter on the latest developments in the countries of central and eastern Europe and another on the economies of the former Soviet Union. The Survey also includes a study on privatization. The situation in the transition countries was also reviewed in The ECE Economies in Mid-1991, prepared for the session of Economic and Social Council in July 1991.

29. In the Economic Bulletin for Europe, Volume 43, special attention was paid to the costs of transformation in terms of output, employment and social security, as well as to the collapse of the intra-CMEA trade and payments system and its impact on mutual trade of the economies in transition. The Bulletin drew special attention to the economic depression which has taken hold of the countries in transition and devoted a chapter to the external economic relations of the three Baltic states.

30. The Senior Economic Advisers, at their session in May 1991, exchanged information on current and medium-term economic developments in the ECE region. They made use of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1990-1991, which was relevant to the two main topics selected for their exchange of views, namely the sequencing of structural reforms and macro-economic policies required for the transition to a market system, and the impact of the dismantling of the CMEA trade and payments system on the economies of central and eastern Europe and east-west economic relations. In response to decision B (46), the Senior

Economic Advisers considered the short- and medium-term impact of the Gulf crisis on ECE member countries, including the consequences resulting from the application of Security Council resolution 661. (see E/ECE/1258)

31. The Senior Economic Advisers devoted special attention to the analysis of structural economic issues and decided to hold a second ad hoc meeting on international trade and structural changes. Special attention was also devoted to the interrelationships between economic development and the environment. The second session of the Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics was held in December 1991 and formulated a number of recommendations to be examined by the Senior Economic Advisers in June 1992.

Trade (ECE/TRADE/178)

(a) Trade facilitation

32. The development of UN/EDIFACT messages is rapidly progressing within the framework of the EDIFACT Joint Rapporteurs programme set up by the Working Party. At present UN/EDIFACT includes recommendations for 18 standard messages (UNSM) approved for implementation, 16 messages for trial use and 35 messages for information. This means that 69 electronic messages are now at various stages of introduction and cover various dimensions of international trade transactions such as order, payments, transport, customs, construction, etc. (See also E/ECE/1253)

33. The Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures adopted a detailed and restructured programme of work on legal issues in order to reconcile legal features of commercial practices with the requirements of Electronic Data Interchange. It devoted particular attention to trade facilitation aspects of the transport of dangerous goods and to problems associated with the practice of pre-shipment inspection (PSI), an issue which is also under discussion in the framework of the GATT trade negotiations, with the aim of reaching international agreement on the subject.

34. In the field of procedures and documentation, the Working Party approved recommendations concerning Layout Keys and revised other Recommendations providing for a new methodology between trading partners and Simpler Shipping Marks.

(b) Other trade activities

35. A workshop on the management of East-West joint ventures (Vienna (Austria), May 1991) recommended the preparation of a guide providing information on the availability of training programmes in Europe and Government funding to assist with the costs of management training in central and eastern Europe. The Guide will serve as a background document for a workshop to be held in Italy in 1992.

36. A workshop on foreign trade and payments reforms in the economies in transition (Bucharest (Romania), September 1991) elaborated guidelines for dismantling foreign trade monopoly, import control, export promotion, export credit financing and guarantees, and convertibility of domestic currency.

37. A Round-table on problems and prospects of trade, payments and investment among the economies in transition was held in December 1991 during the session of the Committee on the Development of Trade. A Guide on "Legal Aspects of Privatization in Industry", prepared under the auspices of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, was published in February 1992. Four issues of the East-West Joint Ventures News were published in 1991. A further study on "Promoting Foreign Direct Investment in the ECE Region" is being prepared for publication.

Energy (ECE/ENERGY/15)

38. At its first session in November 1991, the Committee on Energy identified and rank-ordered six programme activities, agreed on a programme of work and drafted its terms of reference. It also reviewed energy strategies of the ECE countries and examined the energy situation in the economies in transition. It took note of legislative and institutional reforms in the transition countries and the absence of investments in supply and end-use infrastructure.

39. In accordance with the recommendation of the Bergen Conference, a meeting on "Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling Systems" was held in January 1992, which agreed on the need to continue work in this field. It was decided to compare energy efficiency labels for refrigerators, freezers and combined refrigerators/freezers since international standards for measuring the energy consumption of these appliances had already been agreed.

40. Studies were finalized on Sustainable Energy Developments in Europe and North America and on Energy Efficient Design.

41. Seminars were held on Solar Power Systems (Alushta, Ukraine) and on Energy Efficiency Measures in Industry (Bled, Yugoslavia).

42. During its first year of operation the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project executed nine events in eight countries. Three drafts have been prepared for publication om selected energy efficient technologies, products and services; policies and programmes for energy efficiency; and a database of individuals, enterprises and institutions involved in trade and cooperation in energy efficiency.

43. Following the session of the Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project (ENERGY/AC.11/6), an ad hoc Meeting on Global Energy Efficiency 21 was held (ENERGY/AC.13/2) to facilitate information exchange on energy efficiency on a global scale. This will be included in Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

44. The Working Party on Coal, in October 1991, reviewed its structure and activities and identified sectoral priorities as being the transition of the coal industry to market conditions, environmental protection and safety, efficient clean coal technologies, facilitation of coal trade and development of coal trade infrastructure in central and east European countries. The Working Party merged two former subsidiary bodies to form a Meeting of Experts on Research, Management and Transition in the Coal Industry.

45. Workshops were organized in 1991 on the Market Adaptation of Coal Industries in Central and Eastern Europe (Hungary, May 1991) and on Clean

Utilization of Low-Calorie Solid Fuels (Romania, September 1991). Preparations are under way for symposia on Opencast Coal Mining and the Environment (Nottingham (United Kingdom), October 1992); on Clean Coal Technologies (Helsinki (Finland), May 1993); and on Dynamic Phenomena in Underground Mines (St Petersburg (Russian Federation), May 1994).

46. The Working Party on Electric Power has concentrated on economic and technological aspects, including current developments, medium-term and long-term prospects, new technologies, impact on the environment of electric power stations, implications of climate change for electricity supply and international interconnections, more specifically central European interconnections, and a study on future prospects of natural gas demand for electric power generation and its impact on the gas and electric power industries, to be carried out jointly with the Working Party on Gas.

47. The Working Party on Gas implemented activities to provide assistance to economies in transition by holding workshops on gas pricing policies and tariffs design, measures to enhance the exploration and production of indigenous natural gas resources, and a study on interconnections and extension of gas networks in Europe to provide gas supply options to countries in central and eastern Europe. The future prospects of gas supply and gas market developments in the ECE region will be examined at a symposium (Istanbul (Turkey), May 1993).

48. A Symposium on the Use of CNG, LNG and LPG as Fuels for Internal Combustion Engines was held in Kiev (Ukraine) in September 1991, including an auto-tour designed to demonstrate the technical development and commercial viability of using gaseous fuels in the transport sector to achieve environmental objectives.

Agriculture and timber

(a) Agriculture (ECE/AGRI/118)

49. At its session in March 1992, the Committee pursued its efforts to adapt its methods of work and use of resources to the provisions of decision O (45). Suggestions were made concerning the Committee's discussions on developments in the agricultural sector and their implications for policy, and on the coordination of the work of the subsidiary bodies. The Committee also proposed a strengthened role for its Bureau and considered a proposal to meet every two years.

50. The Committee began to implement its substantially reoriented programme of work. Two former Working Parties were replaced by Working Parties on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment; and on the Economics of the Agri-Food Sector and Farm Management. They met in the autumn of 1991 and drew up proposals for their respective programmes of work and mandates. All the Committee's subsidiary bodies are adapting their programmes to give greater emphasis to the Commission's priority areas of activity, to programmes designed to assist the countries in transition, as well as to the guiding principles of sustainable development.

51. A workshop on the transformation of collective farms into viable market-oriented units will be held in Hungary in June 1992.

52. The Committee on Agriculture continued to monitor European markets for cereals, livestock and meat and milk and dairy products, as well as trade in agricultural produce and prices received for their products and paid for their inputs by agricultural producers.

53. A symposium was held in Graz (Austria) in June 1991, jointly with FAO, on the use of agricultural land for non-food purposes. Fundamental changes have been taking place in European agriculture with markets for some food products becoming saturated in many countries and productivity in agriculture continuing to rise. Under these circumstances, policies to maintain rural structures and employment demand that alternatives be found to food production, which may include renewable raw materials and sources of energy, recreation, touristic and leisure activities, forestry and nature conservation.

(b) Timber (ECE/TIM/59)

54. The Timber Committee's session in January 1992 was its first opportunity to adapt its structure, programme and methods of work to decision O (45). It drafted revised terms of reference and reshaped its programme of work to conform with the Commission's priority areas and guiding principles.

55. One of the Committee's six programme activities is devoted entirely to assistance to the economies in transition in central and eastern Europe. A workshop was held in Budapest (Hungary) in September/October 1991 on the organization and management of forestry under market economy conditions. Further workshops are in preparation, including one in Germany in June 1992 on privatization in the forest and forest industry sector and in the Russian Federation in autumn 1992 on problems for the forestry sector of transition to a market economy. An informal ECE/FAO meeting is planned to be held in Austria in autumn 1992 to coordinate activities in the forest and forest products sector in support of countries in transition.

56. The Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics, in August 1991, reviewed progress on the temperate-zone part of the global forest resource assessment 1990, and preparations for the fifth European Timber Trends and Prospects study were agreed on, including forecasting methodologies. Steps were initiated to evaluate the effectiveness of the dissemination of statistics, analyses and other information generated by the Committee, including the ECE/FAO Timber Bulletin, with a view to proposing improvements in contents and presentation.

57. A Seminar on New Technologies and Applications in the Wood-based Panels Sector (Gdansk (Poland), May 1991) considered possibilities for strengthening east-west contacts in these industries. Seminars were also held in Denmark in June 1991 on thinning operations and in Greece in November 1991 on forest fire prevention, land use and people, the latter giving special attention to the socio-economic problem of forest fires in south European countries.

Human settlements (ECE/HBP/83)

58. The Committee on Human Settlements, at its session in September 1991, identified two primary areas of work: assistance to the process of socio-economic transition and sustainable human settlements development. It also reconsidered its structure and methods of work and decided to enhance the

efficiency and flexibility of its activities and to review the contents of its programme of work. An informal consultation of the heads of delegations to the Committee was held in February 1991 to identify the issues to be taken up at the next meeting of the Committee in September 1992.

59. With respect to assistance to the process of socio-economic transition, five workshops were held within a year. Need for assistance in the field of housing, land management and building proved to be of primary concern to many countries. On the basis of the results of the workshops, a summary report on housing policy guidelines was prepared to improve the availability of information. It was sent for comments to member countries and will be discussed by the Committee at its next session.

Industry

(a) Chemical industry (ECE/CHEM/83)

60. At its first session in October 1992, the Working Party on the Chemical Industry drafted its terms of reference.

61. The High-Level Meeting on Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the Chemical Industries was held in Warsaw (Poland) on 10-12 March 1992, as a follow-up to the Bergen Conference. It was organized in cooperation with the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) and with the support of the Commission of the European Communities, and was the first international conference on the subject with a genuine cross-sectoral approach gathering senior representatives from Governments, the chemical industry and regional and international organizations and institutions. The Meeting adopted conclusions reflecting the clear commitment of all partners to the common objective of promoting sustainable development. The High-Level Meeting constituted a substantive contribution to the UNCED.

62. A workshop on restructuring state-owned enterprises in economies in transition and main policy issues was held in Baden (Austria) from 9-11 March 1992. It was the first in a series on this subject and provided a unique opportunity to exchange experience and discuss national approaches in the restructuring of state-owned enterprises, including the case of Austria, corporate strategies on the part of western multinationals with respect to their investments in the economies in transition, how Governments in these economies might improve the climate for foreign investments and how they might be provided with financial and technical assistance.

63. The Meeting of Experts on the Periodic Survey of the Chemical Industry, in October 1991, examined structural developments and changes occurring in sectors of the industry and product groups.

64. The Annual Review of the Chemical Industry in 1990 was published as well as studies on Substitutes for Tripolyphosphate in Detergents (ECE/CHEM/80) and on Engineering Plastics (ECE/CHEM/81). Work continued on the study on management of plastic wastes in the ECE region and on the preparation of the ECE Directory of Chemical Producers and Products.

65. A study tour was organized of the chemical industry in Turkey in October 1991. A workshop on Methods of Improving the Effectiveness of the Polish

Chemical Industry was held in Plock (Poland) in June 1991 and preparations began for a workshop on Waste Treatment in Industrial Parks, to be held in Turkey in 1993.

(b) Engineering Industries and Automation (ECE/ENG.AUT/46)

66. The Meeting on Questions of Statistics concerning Engineering Industries and Automation, held in October 1991, reviewed developments in this sector, including aspects related to international trade. The second Workshop on Rehabilitation Engineering (REHAB-2) was held in Fagernes (Norway) in May 1991 and preparations continued for the third and final Workshop on this subject in Trebon-Spa (Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) in May 1992.

67. Preparations continued for the seminars on New Materials and their Application in Engineering Industries (Kiev (Ukraine), October 1992) and on Foundry Production and Ecology (Minsk (Belarus), May 1993).

68. The Annual Review of Engineering Industries and Automation in 1990 (ECE/ENG.AUT/47) was published as well as the study on Food-Processing Machinery Including Packaging Techniques (ECE/ENG.AUT/43). A study tour of the food and food-machinery industry was held in Hungary in October 1991. The study on Low-Waste Technologies in Engineering Industries is nearing completion and work began on the study on the Medium- and Long-Term Trends and Prospects in Engineering Industries and Automation.

69. A workshop on Strategies in Privatization and Management Techniques of Engineering Industries in Belarus was held in Minsk (Belarus) in February 1992. A workshop on the Adjustment of Engineering Industries in Economies in Transition is tentatively scheduled in Bulgaria in 1992.

(c) Steel industry (ECE/STEEL/76)

70. At its first session in October 1991 the Working Party on Steel drafted its terms of reference. It placed emphasis on the economic and market aspects of consumption of steel and of supply of raw materials such as scrap as well as issues of importance to the economies in transition.

71. A review was made in 1991 of the major trends in the production and consumption of, and trade in, steel and steel-making raw materials, investment and prices as well as factors influencing steel consumption in the face of competitive materials. A Seminar on Producers' and Users' Metallurgical Requirements in the Welding of Steel Products was held in Kiev (Ukraine) in September 1991. Preparations began for the Seminar on the Restructuration and Management Techniques in Steel Industries in Countries in Transition towards Market-Economy Conditions (Dabrowa Gornicza (Poland), May 1992) and for the development of a programme on metallurgy and ecology. As part of this programme, preparations began for a seminar to be held in France in 1993. A study tour of the French steel industry was organized in May 1991.

72. The Steel Market in 1990 (ECE/STEEL/73) and the study on Iron and Steel Scrap (Fifth updating)(ECE/STEEL/74) were published. Work continued on the study on steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap.

73. The secretariat, in association with the secretariats of EUROSTAT (Commission of the European Communities), OECD and IISI (International Iron and Steel Institute), continued its efforts for the revision and simplification of steel statistics, taking into account available statistical resources, the existing systems and the statistics published by other sources.

74. A workshop on the Restructuring of the Romanian Steel Industry was held in Tigorviste (Romania) in February 1992.

(d) Standardization (ECE/STAND/34)

75. The first meeting of the Working Party on Standardization Policies was held on 13-15 May 1991, at which it conducted a thorough review of its programme of work.

76. New priorities for international standardization work, including environmental aspects and energy efficiency questions, will be considered at the second session to be held in May 1992. At that session, the Working Party is expected to draft its terms of reference.

77. A workshop on conformity assessment was held in Romania and three were held in Bulgaria.

Science and Technology (ECE/SC.TECH/42)

78. At their session in September 1991, the Senior Advisers on Science and Technology drafted revised terms of reference. They considered their contribution to reform in economies in transition as well as other possible new areas of cooperation, including a long-term strategy for development in the region in the field of science and technology, and a compendium on the laws and other legal instruments regulating R & D activities at the national and subregional level in ECE member countries. A forum for the discussion of managerial aspects and relationships between national and federal/regional bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, in promoting innovation will be held in 1992. A Workshop on the State Policy on Science and Technology in Economies in Transition Aimed at Promoting Innovation in Industry will be convened in Warsaw (Poland) in June 1992.

79. Preparations continued for the 1992 quadrennial review of changes in overall science and technology policies and of agreements on scientific and technological cooperation in close consultation with OECD. The collection of information for the inventory of safety guidelines in biotechnology continued and summaries of submissions on the subject from 23 Governments were issued.